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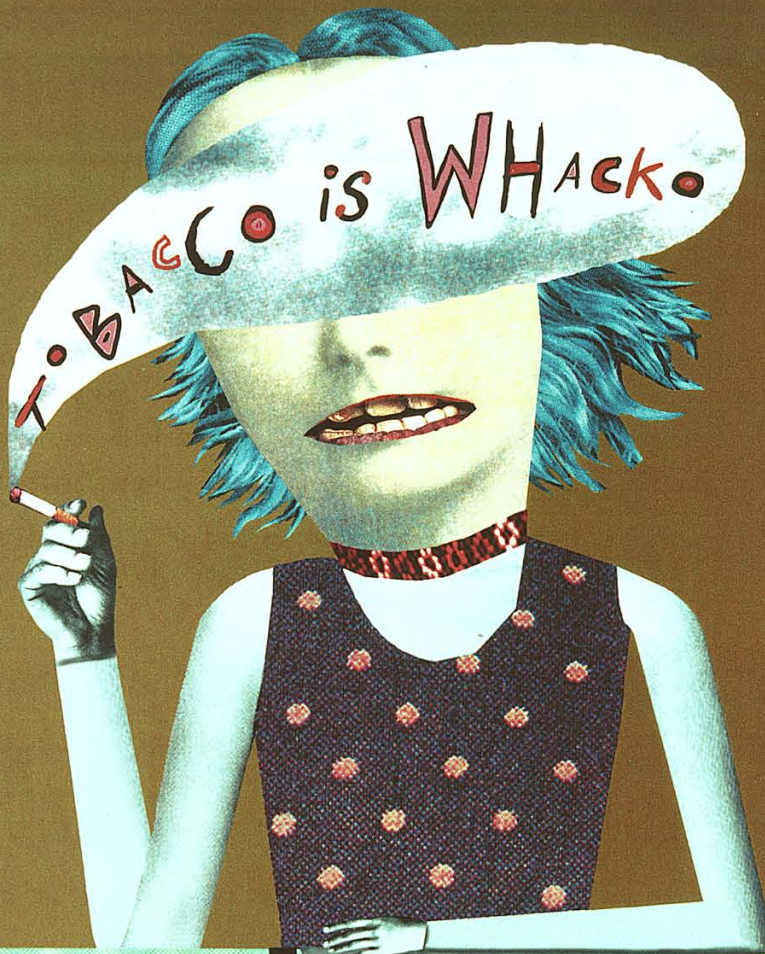
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Part
Two

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story

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It is
as I feared.
Pormammu has
returned.

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I thought you said he couldn't come across to this dimension on his own.

And he did not. By tricking you into gathering all the magical energies from every dimension to try and close the portal, you summoned his essence from where it had been dissipated and scattered.

He could not pierce the veil on his own. Which is why he needed all of you to unwittingly act on his behalf. So that your combined power could bring him here, in pieces, and reconstitute his essence.

Hello?
Standing right here.



It's just...if he's barely managed to pull himself together, maybe he's still vulnerable. The sooner we hit him, the better.

He is correct.

Thanks. So if we all hit him at once--

Right up until that point.

Nuts.



Physical strength will not suffice against Dormammu. I must confront him myself, mystic against mystic.

You will have more than enough to do keeping his minions, the Mindless Ones, from doing more damage than they already have.



Protect the city. But leave Dormammu to me.

You heard the man.

Yeah, but if something happens to the Poc--



Let's get busy!



WHAMMM!



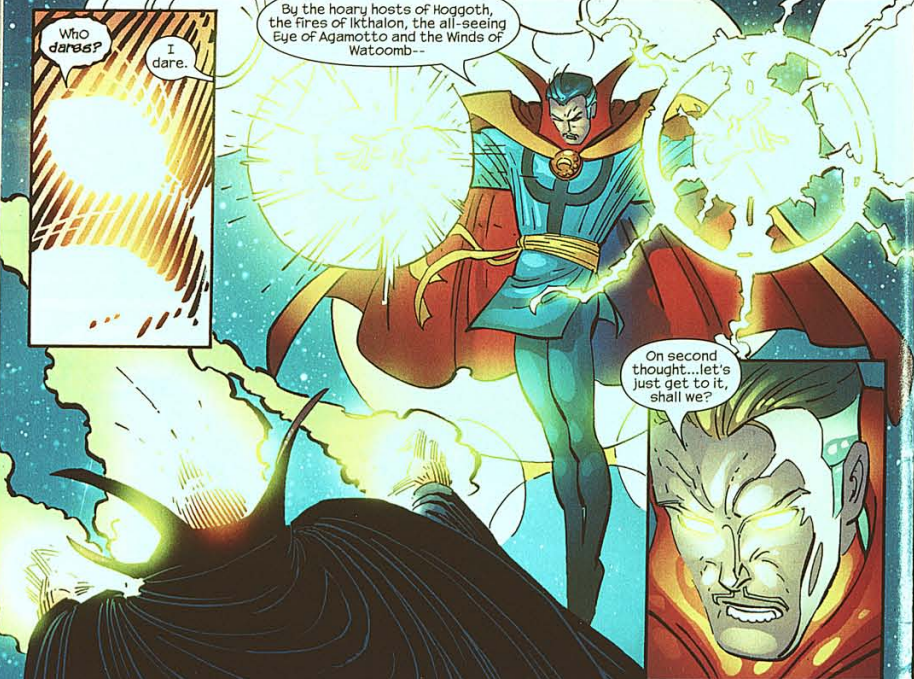
Tell the truth, sunshine. Ya missed me, didn'tcha? You got that look on your face.



Here, lemme change it for you.



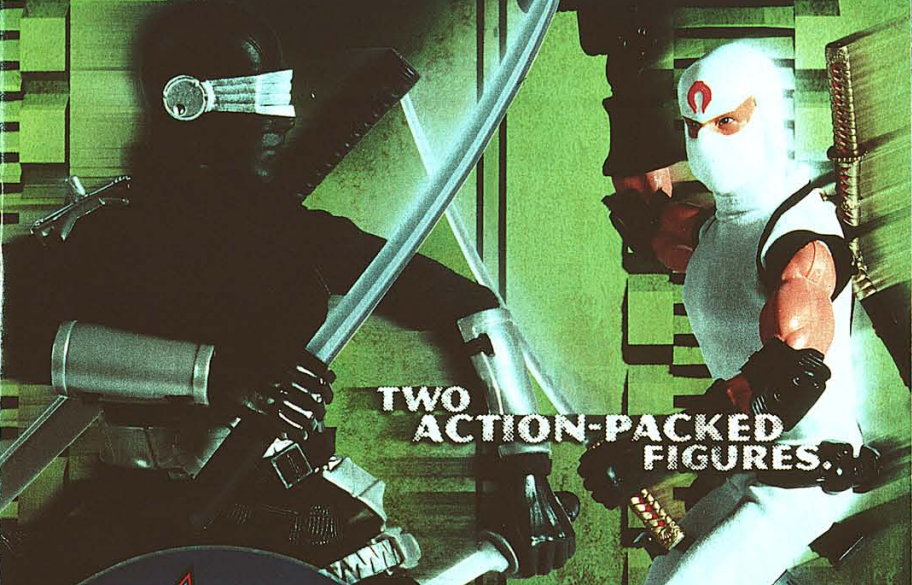
Sigh--
As I always say, in for a penny, in for a pounding...



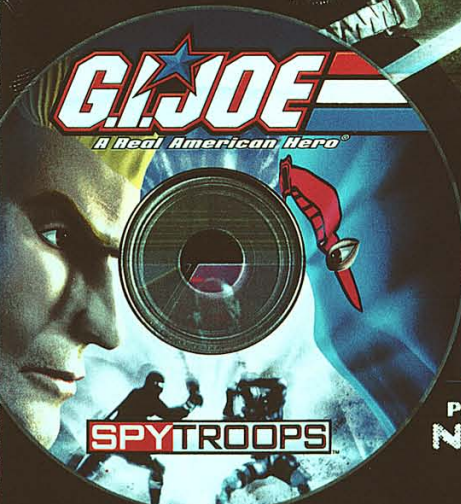
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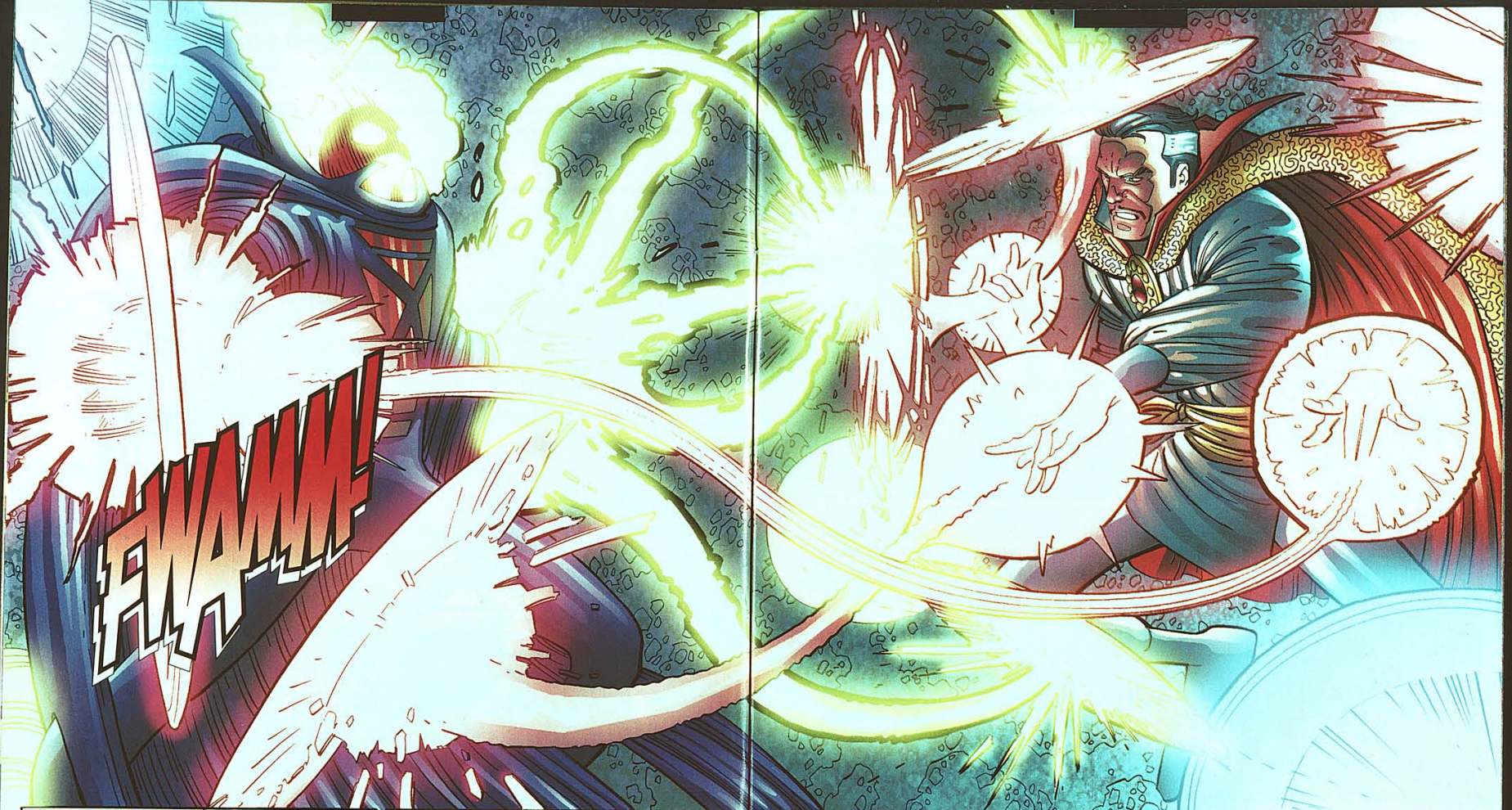


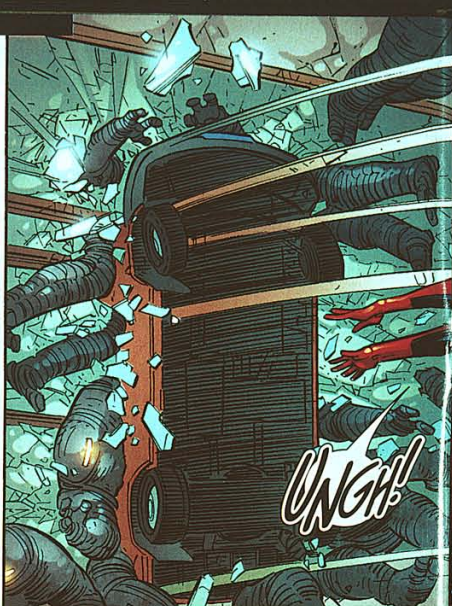
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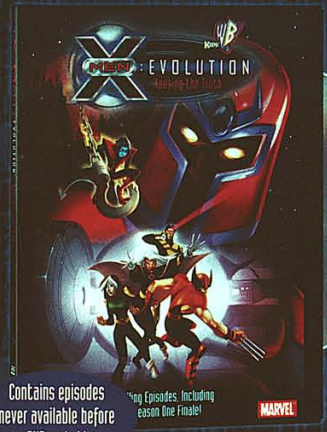
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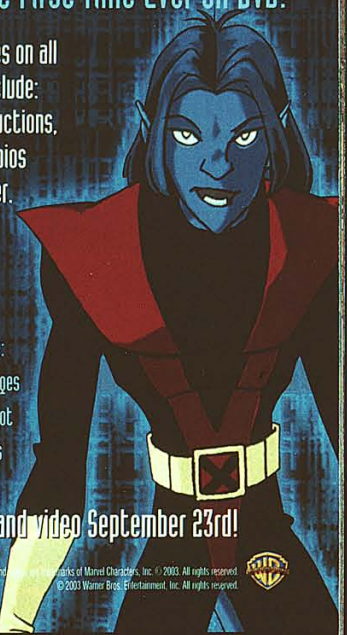
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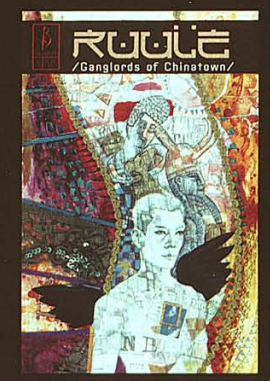
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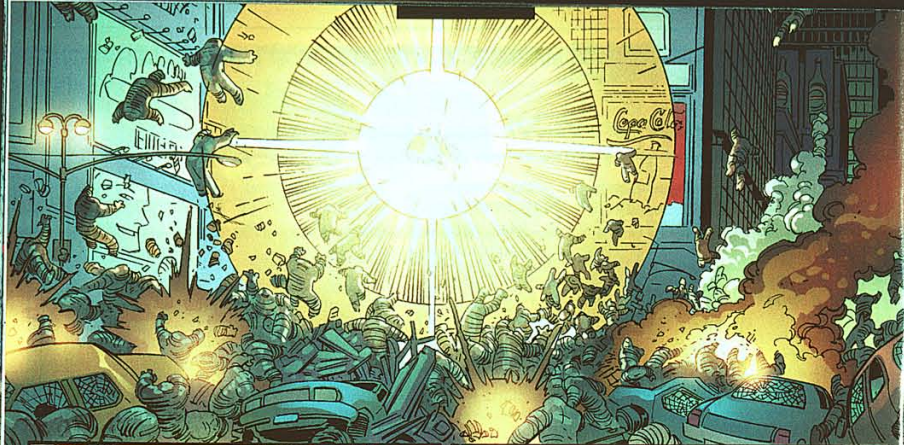


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Because if I'm dead...then who or what is the I that's asking this question?

And what's weirder
is I can't *find* my
nose anymore.

Be.

Silent.

BY THE VAPORS OF
THE VISHANTI DOES IT
TAKE A COURT ORDER
TO GET A LITTLE
SILENCE AROUND HERE?

Sorry.

Yep. It's you, all right.

One word--just one
more word--and when we
return to our dimension
you will do so in the
form of a toad.

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Welcome to the void. The long *precreation hesitation* which existed before there was time and space, and remains forever outside them both.

Wow...

...we're trapped outside time and space. Don't you just hate it when that happens?

Then this has happened to you before?

Nnnnnnnno, but I figured it'd probably happened to you, but if it hadn't, I was, y'know, trying to keep a positive outlook, like this happens all the time--

It *may* be within my power to return us to our dimension or an approximation thereof.

It is *definitely* within my power to leave you here.

Well, *somebody* sure got up on the wrong side of the incantation this morning.

And what did you mean when you said we might return to an *approximation* of our dimension?

As I said, we are outside time and space. My skills may correct one, but not both simultaneously. Even if we return to the correct part of space, we will remain outside time, moving back and forth unpredictably.

Anything I can do to help? Other than, y'know, shutting up so you can concentrate?

That would be a most admirable start.

Ni, ni infalli tu dishok, ni amagotto, ni faltine, tu darkanno--



Oboy... here we go. Did I mention I really hate all this magical stuff?

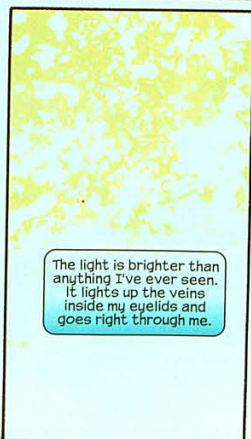
--eninaro, nul caldo tu zarzat--



--NADO! NADO! QUI DANO! ENTA FAL ZAT! ZAT!



ENFI!!



The light is brighter than anything I've ever seen. It lights up the veins inside my eyelids and goes right through me.



Then, just as suddenly, it's gone.

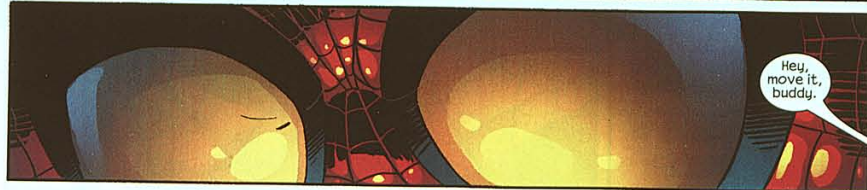
Doc? Doc, I think it worked, I--



No!



It can't be...
it can't--



Hey,
move it,
buddy.



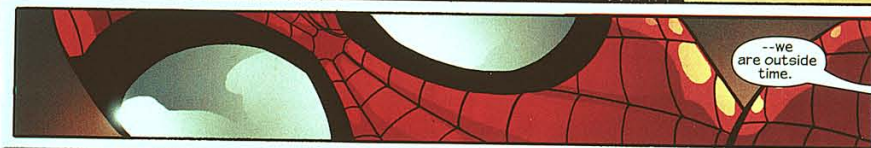
You're
holding up traffic.
Now gedouda here
before I--

But...
how can--

It is
as I told
you--

ARRIVE A

30 RENTALS 30 NIGHT
YOUR SEASONS WOP



--we
are outside
time.



You are
seeing the moments
before Dormammu arrived,
and the future after all
were slain trying to
stop him.

But for
the moment
it still remains
a possible
future.

It's
Shroedinger's
Cat.

Shroedinger had this idea that
if you put a cat in a box where
there's a fifty-fifty chance of
poison gas being put into the
box, until you open the box the
cat is neither alive nor dead, but
in a state where it's both
alive and dead.

Once you
open the box, the
quantum possibilities
collapse into one
reality. A dead
cat. Or a live
cat.

Exactly.

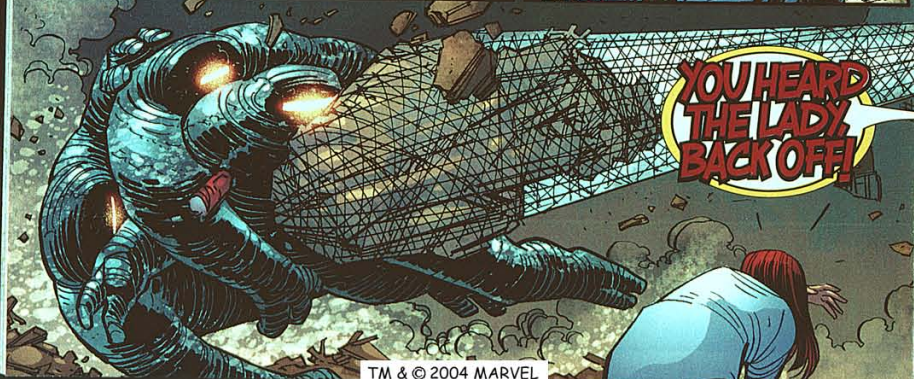


We are inside
the moment *between*
moments. We may even be
able to affect what happens
when the quantum possibilities
collapse into one reality,
our reality, *our*
future.

We cannot let that moment become
this moment. Because I can feel
Dormammu sweeping across the
planet, leaving only destruction
in his wake. All the heroes are
dead, leaving behind only the
dead, the dying and the
wounded--

Help me...
someone please,
help me--





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**J. MICHAEL STRACYZNSKI
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Cover by J. SCOTT CAMPBELL
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- ☐ ULA The Ultimates
- ☐ USP Ultimate Spider-Man
- ☐ UXM Ultimate X-Men

X-MEN

- ☐ EXL Exiles
- ☐ XME Uncanny X-Men
- ☐ WOL Wolverine
- ☐ XFO X-Statix
- ☐ MEN New X-Men
- ☐ XTR X-Treme X-Men

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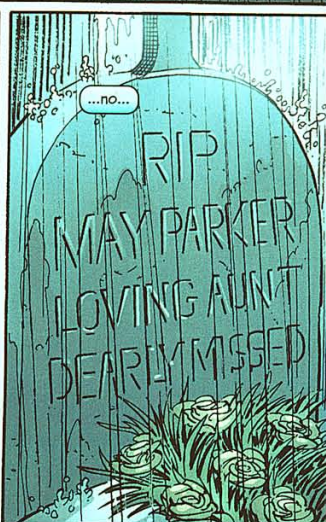
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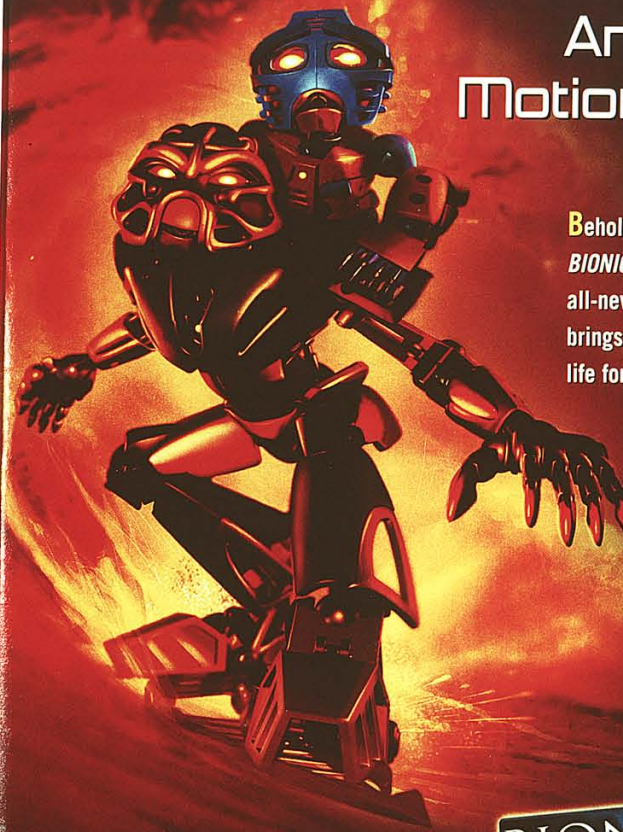




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